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WASHINGTON, DC- U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon today announced that St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes will receive \$4,937,250 in federal disaster aid grants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The grants will reimburse the parishes for disaster relief and recovery costs.

**"Our communities in southeastern Louisiana need quality infrastructure and adequate government services in order to recover and thrive," said Melancon. "These grants will help the parishes repair and replace their damaged infrastructure, so people can return to their homes and move on with their lives."**

The following grants were announced today for St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes:

• **\$2,850,300.00 to Plaquemines Parish's Wastewater Collection System for Sewer Lateral Connections.** Hurricane Katrina caused catastrophic damage to the Plaquemines Parish's wastewater collection system. The storm waters moved commercial and residential structures, causing irreparable damage to individual sewer service lateral connections. Of the 6,818 individual connections served by the parish's wastewater collection system, an estimated 3,840 are damaged. This grant will reimburse the parish for the cost to remove damaged connections and install new six foot cleanouts in various locations throughout the parish.

• **\$2,086,950.00 to St. Bernard Parish to Replace Large Vehicles and Construction Equipment Maintenance.** Hurricane Katrina completely flooded St. Bernard Parish, covering virtually 100% of the Parish. Flood waters remained for about two weeks and reached depths varying from 4.5 to 15 feet. This grant will allow the parish to replace heavy duty vehicles, including 46 trucks and construction maintenance equipment that were submerged underwater. The grant also covers 48 heavy duty trucks, and construction/maintenance equipment that may be repaired. One tractor has been repaired.

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